

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, ABERTRIDWR ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs K.R. Baker, Mrs A. Collins, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray and J. Taylor

Representing Teachers Associations

Mrs E. Hawthorn - Valleys RE Teachers Association

Mrs C. Anthony - NAHT

Representing Religious Organisations

Mrs M. Wade - United Reformed Church

Mr D. Brooks - Baptist Church in Wales

Together with:

Mrs V. Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser), B. Pugh (Adviser for School Effectiveness - Primary) and Mrs K. Wall (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K.R. Snell and Mrs. S. John (UCAC), Miss H. Bartley (NASUWT), Miss N. Thomas (NUT), Miss P. Brown (ATL), Reverend A. Williams and B. Hopkins (Head of School Effectiveness).

SA1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of Caerphilly SACRE held on 22nd May 2002 were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

(i) **Artefacts Resource Update**

It was reported that artefacts to support the six main religions were now available from the School Effectiveness Unit at the Education Offices in Ystrad Mynach. Mr Brett Pugh (School Effectiveness - Primary) also reported that a number of schools had already requested use of the artefacts.

Mrs Thomas (ESIS Religious Education Adviser) thanked Mr Pugh and his staff for their promptness in developing the central resource.

(ii) **Holocaust Memorial Day**

The Chairman reported that the Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM had written to SACREs to provide details of the Wales' National Holocaust Memorial Day and to suggest ways in which SACREs could contribute to the project. Further details of the project had also been received from Jen Malcolm, the Events Co-ordinator from Neath Port Talbot Education Development Service and it was noted that the following categories would apply:-

Primary Years 5 and 6 - to write a poem of hope for the future

Secondary

Art Work - Key stages 3 and 4 - to produce on A3 a picture based on prejudice and hope

Written Work - Key stage 3 - to write a poem on racism and hope for the future

Schools had been asked to return their entries to their local SACRE by 29th November and Local SACREs had then been asked to examine the pieces of work returned and to choose the best in each category to send to the Events Co-ordinator for inclusion in the All Wales Memorial Evening to be held at the Temple of Peace, Cathays, Cardiff on January 27th 2003.

SACRE welcomed the news that an All Wales Memorial Evening was to be held to commemorate National Holocaust Day and it was agreed that Caerphilly schools should be notified of the event and that a meeting of SACRE should be held at the beginning of December to examine the entries received.

SA2 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The following schedule of meetings for 2002/2003 was agreed:-

Wednesday, 4th December 2002 at 2.00 p.m. at the Tredomen Council Offices

Thursday, 6th March 2003 at 2.00 p.m. to be held at a venue to be arranged

Wednesday, 2nd July 2003 at 2.00 p.m. at the Tredomen Council Offices

SA3 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2001 - 2002

Copies of Caerphilly SACRE's Annual Report for the academic year 2001 - 2002 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

During consideration of the report the following comments were made:-

Appendix 1 - Membership of SACRE

It was noted that Mr D. Brooks was a member of the independent Baptist movement in Wales and did not represent the Baptist Church in Wales as stated in the report.

SACRE members were advised that Miss Helen Bartley had notified the Clerk that she had recently resigned from the NAHT and was now a member of the ATL. She had also indicated her desire to continue to serve on Caerphilly SACRE. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would contact the ATL to seek clarification.

The issue of encouraging non-faith representatives to become members of SACRE was discussed and it was agreed that the Council for Racial Equality should be contacted to ascertain if it could assist in recruiting new members.

Appendix 3 - Examination Results Analysis 2001

An error was noted in the percentage of LEA totals/averages for GCE Religious Studies Advanced Subsidiary Level 2001 for grades A - E and it was agreed that this figure would be corrected in the final document.

Appendix 5 - Circulation of Report

It was agreed that the Community Consortium for Education and Training (CCET) should be added to the report's circulation list.

Following discussion, the Annual Report for 2001/2002 was approved.

SA4 INSET NEEDS AND PLANS 2002 - 2004

Consideration was given to the report that provided details of the in-service training provided for Caerphilly schools during the academic year 2002 - 2004 which aimed to promote and support:-

- The raising of the standards of pupils' attainment in religious education
- The highest quality provision of religious education

Attention was drawn to the Visiting Places of Worship course to be held on 4th February and it was noted that SACRE members would be invited to take part in the visit. New courses planned for 2003 were also noted.

The report was noted.

SA5 CAERPHILLY SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2001 – 2003 AND 2002 – 2005

Consideration was given to SACRE's Development Plan 2001 - 2003 and 2003 - 2005. During discussion, reference was made to the 2002 - 2005 Development Plan and in particular to Aim 2, i.e. 'to review the agreed syllabus for religious education and produce additional guidance to schools' and the funding implications of establishing a Working Party comprising representatives from the Advisory Service and teachers to review the Agreed Syllabus were noted.

Mrs Thomas indicated that she would soon be writing to the Directors of Education from the four county boroughs to ask them to make appropriate budgetary provision.

SA6 EXEMPLIFICATION OF STANDARDS DOCUMENT FOR KEY STAGES 1 AND 2

SACRE members were informed that a collaborative working party comprising four RE Co-ordinators, one from each of the four LEAs had met to collect assessment material that exemplified the level description found in the agreed syllabus for religious education. The document was intended to support teachers within the same school and across all schools in the LEA to make judgements about pupils' standards of achievement in religious education, which were consistent and reliable. It also aimed to help to improve the quality of teaching and learning in religious education.

SACRE members welcomed the draft exemplification document and it was noted that the document would also be circulated to all primary and secondary schools within the LEAs involved.

SA7 WASACRE MEETING

SACRE members noted the report that provided an executive summary of the matters discussed at the

WASACRE meeting held at Swansea on 12th July 2002.

During discussion, supply cover costs for teachers attending SACRE meetings was discussed and it was agreed that clarification on this issue would be sought and that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

SA8 REPRESENTATION AT NEXT WASACRE MEETING

It was noted that the next WASACRE meeting would be held at Clydach Vale in Rhondda Cynon Taff on 15th November.

Representation at this meeting was discussed and Councillor D.M. Gray, Councillor J. Taylor and Mr D. Brooks indicated their interest in attending. The teacher representatives also indicated that they would rotate attendance and Mrs Hawthorn expressed her interest in attending the Spring meeting.

SA9 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported on the following items of correspondence –

(a) St Ilan School

Following consideration of St Ilan's Inspection Report at the last SACRE meeting, a letter had been sent to the Head teacher offering SACRE's assistance in addressing the key issues identified in the Inspection Report and requesting a copy of the school's Post Inspection Action Plan.

The Chairman read aloud the response received from the Head teacher and SACRE members were pleased to note that the key issues identified in the Inspection Report were being addressed in the school's Post Inspection Action Plan.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Head teacher should be thanked for his response and his attention should be drawn to the INSET training courses entitled 'Collective Worship in the Secondary School' planned for Autumn of 2003 and 'Post-16 Provision and RE' planned for Spring 2004.

(b) Bedwas High School

The Inspection Report in respect of Bedwas High School had also been considered at the last SACRE meeting and a similar letter offering SACRE's support in addressing the key issues identified in the report and requesting a copy of the school's Post Inspection Report had been sent to the school's Head teacher.

The Chairman read aloud the response received and SACRE members were again pleased to note that the issues identified were being addressed in the Post Inspection Plan.

The Head teacher had also highlighted that the sixth form provision allowed for three one hour lessons of RE, although due to the demands of a number of pupils following four subjects at AS and key skills, some pupils had 'clashes' with the allocated times of the RE lessons.

SACRE members considered the problems identified and it was suggested that consideration could be given to introducing self-study support materials to alleviate the difficulties. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Head teacher should be thanked for her response and that her attention should be drawn to the INSET training courses entitled 'Collective Worship in the Secondary School' planned for Autumn 2003 and 'Post-16 Provision and RE' planned for Spring 2004.

TOUR OF CHAPEL

SACRE members were invited to take part in a tour of the Chapel and the Chairman outlined details of its history.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.